THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) to (c) Representations were received by the Government from the Tehelka group. These representations are under examination of the Government.

Purchase of MIG-29K as Part of Gorshkov Deal

1333. SHRI SANJAY NIRUPAM: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government's purchase of 16 MIG-29K fighters from Russia as part of the Admiral Gorshkov aircraft carrier deal has run into rough weather and;

(b) if so, the details about the delay of the deal finalisation?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) No, Sir. *

(b) Does not arise.

Setting up of Department of Ex-Servicemen

1334. SHRIMATI S.G INDIRA : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to set up a Department of Ex-servicemen to address their grievances better;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the proposed Department will look into various post-service requirements of ex-servicemen; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MKHERJEE): (a) The Government have already set up a separate Department of Ex-servicemen Welfare under the Ministry of Defence.

(b) The Department is headed by an Additional secretary. For coordination purposes, Defence Secretary will provide the over all supervision within the Ministry of Defence.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The Department of ex-servicemen welfare will deal with the following post-service requirements of ex-servicemen:

(i) AH aspects of resettlement and welfare of ex-servicemen and their dependents;

(ii) Ex-servicemen Contributory Health Scheme; and

(iii) All pension matters of the Armed Forces.

Arms to fight Terrorism for Security Forces

1335. SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indian security forces are still not well equipped to fight terrorism and the Fidayeen;

(b) if so, what further steps are contemplated to fight Fidayeen terrorism effectively; and

(c) the nature and extent of arms and equipments required to effectively arm our forces and the steps taken/being taken to acquire the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHRI PRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Security Forces have been equipped with sophisticated-weapons like 5.56mm INSAS Rifles, 5.55mm Light Machine Guns and AK-47 assault rifles, area domination weapons like Automatic Grenade Launchers and Rocket Launchers etc. to provide a decisive edge over their adversaries. Protective clothing like bullet proof jackets have also been provided. Mobility has been improved through latest vehicles.

Appropriate surveillance equipment including might vision devices is also being provided. A Modernisation Plan is being implemented as per the requirements articulated by the security forces.